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July 11, 2003

The Honorable David Walker  
Comptroller-General  
United States General Accounting Office  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Comptroller-General Walker:

We are writing to request a General Accounting Office review of the fiscal costs of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass" policy (DADTDPDH). Specifically, we would like the GAO to review the annual fiscal costs of the past ten years for:

- (1) recruiting and training personnel to replace those separated under DADTDPDH, which includes a breakdown of individual occupational specialties;
- (2) conducting investigations of alleged violations of DADTDPDH;
- (3) administering DADTDPDH outside of the context of investigations, including staff time and costs devoted to DADTDPDH by personnel/human resources staffers, Equal Opportunity staffers, chaplains, mental health care providers, and unit training staff;
- (4) out-processing personnel separated under DADTDPDH, including staff time and costs devoted to DADTDPDH by administrative discharge boards and JAG staff.

We ask that the GAO report all available information for each of these costs. We recognize that complete records may not be available for a particular cost, and that staff hours may not be readily determined by precise dollar amounts. In those events, we ask that GAO utilize sampling techniques, estimates, averages, partial costs or any other quantifiable evidence. For example, it would be useful to have an estimate of the average number of staff hours devoted to investigating allegations of DADTDPDH for a particular service branch.

Such a report is necessary and important for our nation. First, we have no current information on the fiscal costs of the policy of excluding servicemen and women for homosexuality. It has been eleven years since the GAO last reported any findings on such costs.

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See *Defense Force Management: Statistics related to DoD's Policy of Homosexuality: Report to Congressional requesters* (GAO/NSIAD-92-98). Since the GAO's 1992 report, these costs have undoubtedly been affected by the implementation of DADTDPDH, new training expenditures, and inflation. As a result, at present, we have no accurate information on the costs associated with this major defense policy.

Second, our understanding of the total fiscal costs of DADTDPDH is very narrow. While the 1992 GAO report was extremely helpful to the Congress, it did not break down the costs of replacements by occupational specialty, as we are now requesting. In addition, the 1992 GAO report only covered the costs of recruiting and training replacements, due to limited recordkeeping by the Department of Defense. While subsequent recordkeeping on DADTDPDH may also be limited, our knowledge would improve substantially by the GAO collecting any of the described evidence.

Third, recent developments have renewed scrutiny on the fiscal costs of DADTDPDH. For example, within the past year, 23 language specialists from the Defense Language Institute (DLI) have been discharged under DADTDPDH. Among those discharged from DLI included linguists trained in Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Chinese and Russian. These discharges occurred when our armed forces were facing shortages of upwards of 50% in these key languages. See *Foreign Languages: Workforce Planning Could Help Address Staffing and Proficiency Shortfalls* (GAO-02-514T). Given the high training expenses for students at DLI, these discharges focused attention on fiscal costs of DADTDPDH. These fiscal costs are of particular interest as we approach the tenth year anniversary of DADTDPDH.

We believe that a General Accounting Office review of the fiscal costs of this policy would be highly useful to Congress and the American people. If you have any questions, please contact Debra Wada of the House Armed Services Committee staff at (202) 226-5662.

Sincerely yours,

	
Rep. Martin T. Meehan Ranking Member House Armed Services Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities	Rep. Neil Abercrombie Ranking Member House Armed Services Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces



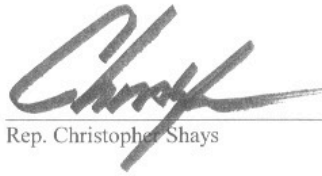
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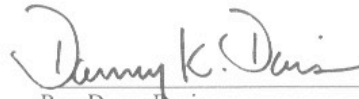
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